

## Across the Prairie

### A LEAP FROM THE TRAIN.

Commissioner.

thought of the war in this new-world place far across the prairie sea, war of the march in the dark midnight And the shot from behind the tree, the shaven head and the painted face, The silent foot in the wood, A host of a strange outlandish tongue That is hard to be understood.

Perhaps no route could present a greater variety of scenery than this great Pacific and over which I lately passed in the eastern ocean. Last week I was speaking of the passage through the mountains, today I would ask you to come with me in the road across the plains, though I do not hope to give you any adequate idea of what the road is like, nothing but the straight line that brings your mind in any degree to the reality of these vast plains, which like a shoreless ocean stretch their wide expanse from horizon to horizon.

The first thing that strikes itself upon the traveller's mind is the extent of those boundless acres, as yet untamed by the hand of civilization; the next is the mighty extent of the products they shall at length yield to blow and sun; the starving millions of the overflowing cities of the old world. And from this you may be sure it does not require any great exercise of the imagination to carry the mind out to the not very distant day when in the place of rolling plains the country shall have blossomed into fruitful fields, smiling homesteads, flourishing towns and mighty cities, filled with lives and energies and brains and intellects that shall improve and build up the country and send out help and blessing and food and necessities to the older nations from which they shall have sprung.

As I thought of these things you may be sure that still more weighty matters of the souls and the Salvation of this coming people were not absent from my mind, and one matter brings great comfort to me and should to every Salvationist, that as we are ahead in this fight, and that we shall be here at the outset, instead of coming in the bye-and-bye when sin and selfishness shall have blasted the people, hardened the hearts of men, and built up barriers of wickedness and prejudice for us or our come. What a grand and glorious future lays before us in this new land if we are only true to our principles and true Salvation instincts, and how very desperate any agency these coming nations may be gained for God, even in

their infancy. Not only gained—but leaped to look after the real concerns of eternity, instead of allowing all their energies to be spent in the pursuit of such transient things as wealth and ease or honorable position.

The folly of thus throwing one's self after trifles and endangering the reality was forcibly brought home to me by an incident on the train in this our novel journey.

The wind was blowing hard across the prairie as we sped along on the Pacific express, which at this time was travelling about 80 miles an hour. All at once a cry of horror ran through the cars that a man had been blown from the platform, and in an instant every head was out of a window, whilst others rushed to the platform at the rear of each car. The conductor clutched the cord which, sounding the large gong on the engine, gave the driver order to stop. The train was backed down to the spot where the man was lying, and in a few minutes his groans could be distinctly heard. Wiser dis-

posal," were throwing away their lives and God-given opportunities in the pursuit of something equally trivial and fleeting and indeed less satisfactory, even their pleasure, their position, wealth, reputation, honour or that particular gratification with which they hoped to satisfy the cravings of their immortal soul, or appease that spiritual appetite, within which could only be satisfied with spiritual things. For after all does not a comfortable hat or a warm coat give more satisfaction to our bodily needs, than does pleasure, wealth, or any of those things to the immortal spirit that is within, and which has to live on and on for ever either with those that have served God and are satisfied with Him in Heaven, or with those foolish ones that have in vain tried to satisfy themselves with perishing things and are doomed to endless unrest that out from His presence for ever. True this man only broke his arm in pursuit of the hat, but many of his crimes are damning their souls in pursuit of pleasure, gain, or selfish gratification. And these

are the people to whom God when he takes up the tangled threads of human lives and pronounces judgement, shall say "Thou fool."

Such, dear comrades, was the thought that this incident suggested to me as I sat in the cars during that prairie journey, and I think they contain a lesson and a warning for all of us. How do we as Salvationists stand in this matter, are we thinking more of our own ease and comfort than of the world that is lying around. Have we a Salvation that prompts us to sit down in our own homes, or in our own corps, to enjoy the privileges and comforts that surround us, or does the groan that He has given us propel us to go forth to seek the lost.

Here is this new country about which we have been talking, already presenting a rich soil—barren but with secretly any to

reap. What says the Spirit to you in this matter, put the home comforts, the worldly prospects, the social advantages and the ultimate gains in the scale as against the crown of many stars and make the choice, careful as to the future that neither the crowning of conscience nor the voice Divine may ever breathe the bitter words "Thou-fool!"

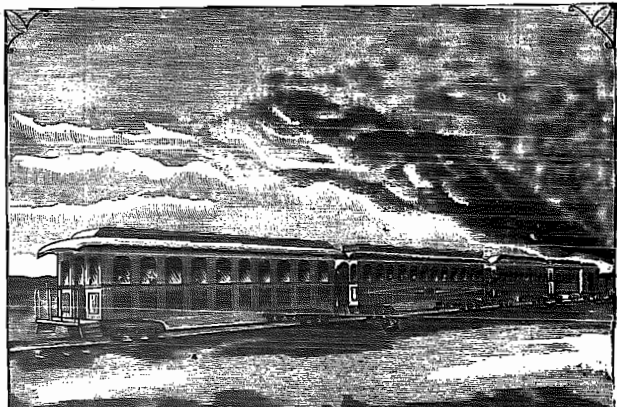
## REVIEW.

### "All the World" for December.

The Christmas number of "All the World" is a hard, and hard fare comparison with any of its predecessors in the way of special numbers. Mrs. Booth opens up with a magnificent review of the jubilee year in its social and religious aspects, in the course of which, in her best style, she deals with the nation's progress from a Salvation point of view. A crisp, bright, interesting paper on the Outer Circle of the S.A. by Ellen Douglas, until alike claims and delights the attention. H. A. Beaman, the Hallejuhal poet, has a monstrous story in verse, "The Daughter of a King," and Staff-Capt. B. Cox's "London or You," possesses a more than ordinary interest—also a possibly heretofore native from the "Slums" in which she has laboured so nobly, and whose people she has loved with such God-given devotion. There are other contributions from B. D. Cox, E. R. B. Ellen Pash and a legion of familiar names whose efforts are always welcome to Canadian readers.

The foreign papers possess, if possible, a more than ordinary interest, and come from the past of all the old friends, Majors "Clubberr," Vint and Wescorrie being as usual to the front. Altogether it is a most enjoyable and satisfactory number, and makes a fitting addition to the more than ever excellent volume which it closes. In spite of every difficulty "All the World" holds its own, and occupies a more than very prominent position amongst the very extensive magazine literature of our day. Whilst congratulating the management upon their marked success, we must remind our Canadian friends that, for without "All the World" is to be behind the times a very long way; and would advise them to send their subscription for the forthcoming volume right away.

Prayers say the measures of the Salvation Army are extraordinary; but we live in very extraordinary times, and it takes extraordinary measures to reach the people.



**A LEAP FROM A TRAIN.**

















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th Head, Capt. Finner .....	110
tsville, " Vanboskirk .....	110

ton, Capt. McPhail.....	100
wich, " Blaine.....	100

Capt. McPhail.....	100
Twice, Blaine.....	100
Chief Clerk, Station.....	100
" " Jones.....	100
M. Crosby.....	100
Employed.....	100
Monetary.....	100
M. Wiggins.....	100
Halsey.....	100
White.....	100
New.....	100
Harvey.....	100
Woodward.....	100
Bredt.....	100
Duncan.....	100
Pritchard.....	100
Wooten.....	100
Capt. M. Wemels.....	100

The stations marked \* have been increased, and those marked † have decreased their order.

### NOTES.

There is every reason for us to be encouraged from the way our comrades in arms are doing. The success of our expedition lists, and the evident desire we are manifesting all round to push up the destruction and grapple with the Wasia difficulty.

Of course there is a kickier here and there, and I think that those who are content to shrink a day are always the to be disappointed when the shrinking ceases. We should be very sorry to see a gallant officer like you, who has

they were needed, and the very fact some have squealed because they are

shows plainly that such strictures were out of place.

We are glad to note that *Peterboro'* has made an advance this week. Ad-

... are getting chronic every week  
... and we trust the epidemic will

nd to other corps. *Hamilton* gets into  
400 list, but we feel sure that the

ous City will not be satisfied till it  
goes further up the column.

asfortis gets over the 200 we are glad  
mine and we are believing the stock

will not rest till they resume their old  
 ion, which was over 400.

ris makes an advance which is credit-

to a corps contending against such  
ulties, and Nowhere and Creemure,

...the smaller places, are on the up  
side.

course everyone will be anxious to see their order for Christmas. Be in

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